



NEWS RELEASE

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MARCH 22, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDEPENDENCE MAN SENTENCED IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. He is among 18 co-defendants from Eastern Jackson County who have been convicted.

William L. Pennington, 43, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to three years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 15, 2003, **Pennington** pleaded guilty to attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine. **Pennington** admitted that he and two co-defendants were operating a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in a hotel room rented at the Super 8 Motel in Grandview, Mo., on Nov. 12, 2002.

Pennington is among 18 co-defendants who have all pleaded guilty to charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 25, 2003. Fifteen co-defendants have been sentenced and three await sentencing.

* **Brian V. Coen**, 27, of Sugar Creek, Mo., was sentenced on March 4, 2004, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. On Nov. 17, 2003, **Coen** pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999, and Feb. 25, 2003. **Coen** was arrested when law enforcement officers seized an operational methamphetamine laboratory from a vehicle that he occupied on Aug. 27, 2001.

* **Sean C. Postpichal**, 27, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced on March 2, 2004, to 10 years and one month in federal prison without parole. On July 21, 2003, **Postpichal** pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of

methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999, and Feb. 25, 2003.

* **Tommy R. Smith**, 29, of Sibley, Mo., was sentenced on March 3, 2003, to one year and six months in federal prison without parole. On July 22, 2003, **Smith** pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting others in attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine.

* **Troy L. Goetz**, 35, of Independence, was sentenced on Feb. 24, 2004, to three years and one month in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 28, 2003, **Goetz** pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he distributed methamphetamine between Feb. 7, 2003, and Feb. 13, 2003.

* **Darcy E. Harris**, 39, of Stockton, Mo., was sentenced on Feb. 24, 2004, to four years and six months in federal prison without parole. On July 22, 2003, **Harris** pleaded guilty to her role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, she admitted that she conspired with others to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999, and Feb. 25, 2003.

* **Randall H. Olf**, 45, of Oak Grove, Mo., was sentenced on Feb. 24, 2004, to three years in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 13, 2003, **Olf** pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he conspired with others to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999, and Feb. 25, 2003.

* **Eric C. Koncher**, 38, of Blue Springs, Mo., was sentenced on Feb. 24, 2004, to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 14, 2003, **Koncher** pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he conspired with others to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999, and Feb. 25, 2003.

* **Douglas W. Williams**, 50, of Independence, was sentenced on Feb. 23, 2004, to 10 years in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 13, 2003, **Williams** pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he conspired with others to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999, and Feb. 25, 2003. Specifically, **Williams** admitted that he contributed to the conspiracy by distributing methamphetamine and by obtaining and providing precursor chemicals to others for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine.

* **William R. Sands**, 34, of Raytown, Mo., was sentenced on Feb. 23, 2004, to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 13, 2003, **Sands** pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, **Sands** admitted that he conspired with others to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999, and Feb. 25, 2003. Specifically, **Sands** admitted that he was one of the co-defendants manufacturing methamphetamine.

* **Tammie L. Avelyn**, 42, of Independence, was sentenced on Feb. 23, 2004, to five years

in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 13, 2003, **Avelyn** pleaded guilty to her role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, she admitted that she conspired with others to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999, and Feb. 25, 2003. Specifically, she admitted that it was her job to obtain pseudoephedrine pills for methamphetamine cooks.

* **Robin L. Green**, 36, of Independence, was sentenced on Feb. 23, 2004, to two years and six months in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 15, 2003, **Green** pleaded guilty to her role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, she admitted that she knowingly aided in the distribution of methamphetamine between Feb. 7, 2003, and Feb. 13, 2003.

* **David J. Hoerl, Jr.**, 39, of Raytown, was sentenced on Jan. 23, 2004, to two years in federal prison without parole. On June 25, 2003, **Hoerl** pleaded guilty to maintaining a place of residence for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing and storing methamphetamine. **Hoerl** admitted that he allowed his residence, located at 11008 E. 72nd St., to be used as a methamphetamine laboratory between Aug. 1, 2002, and Oct. 2, 2002.

* **Michael D. Sanders**, 43, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on Jan. 20, 2004, to seven years in federal prison without parole. On July 23, 2003, **Sanders** pleaded guilty to attempting to manufacture methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Sanders** admitted that he was operating a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in two hotel rooms rented at the American Inn in Independence on Jan. 19, 2000.

* **Edward D. Miller, Jr.**, 31, of Independence, was sentenced on Jan. 20, 2004, to three years and five months in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 12, 2003, **Miller** pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. **Miller** admitted that he was in possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute between Oct. 1, 1999, and Feb. 25, 2003. **Miller** obtained methamphetamine from clandestine methamphetamine laboratories run by several co-defendants, Graves said.

Three co-defendants who have pleaded guilty and await sentencing are **Amber G. Watson**, 24, **Eric C. Hood**, 38, and **Teresa S. Hood**, 41, all of Independence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael S. Oliver and Jeff Valenti. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department and the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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